

5. Note on *Pycnoptilus floccosus*, Gould.

By E. P. RAMSAY, C.M.Z.S.

[Received August 2, 1881.]

The true habitat of the rare bird named *Pycnoptilus floccosus* by Gould has been somewhat a mystery ever since its discovery; the belts of the Murray River were always put down as the locality from whence the original specimens came. Some years ago Mr. James Ramsay met with it on the Murrumbidgee River, but only on one occasion. Ornithologists, therefore, may be pleased to hear that the bird is an inhabitant of the coast-ranges near Sydney, New South Wales, whence I have recently seen some beautiful specimens, obtained by Mr. A. J. Thorpe, our skillful taxidermist. These birds were carefully sexed; but the sexes show no difference in the plumage. A pair measure as follows:—

	♂ inches.	♀ inches.
Total length	6	6
Wing	2·55	2·45
Tail	3	2·9
Tarsus	1·1	1·1
Bill from forehead	0·7	0·7
Bill from gape	0·75	0·73

The occurrence of *Pachycephala olivacea*, *Glycyphila albifrons*, and *Campephaga jardinii* within a few miles of Sydney is also worth recording.

Australian Museum, Sydney,
May 27, 1881.

6. Note on *Cæliaxis layardi*, Angas.

By E. L. LAYARD, F.Z.S.

[Received August 3, 1881.]

Some years ago Mr. G. F. Angas described, in the 'Proceedings' of this Society (P. Z. S. 1865 p. 54), a curious shell sent to him by me, under the name of *Subulina (Cæliaxis) layardi*, of which the only specimens known were dead decorticated examples found on the sand-hills around East London, at the mouth of the Buffalo River, in the Cape colony. Mr. Angas, therefore, in his diagnosis, described it as "*candida*."

In 1870 I visited the Eastern province and the neighbourhood whence this shell had been procured, and, aided by my kind friend Thomas Holden Bowker, Esq., soon unearthed the first living specimens of this remarkable shell from under the sand, beneath the bushes in the neighbourhood of his residence at Tharvield. I then found that the colour of the living shell was a pale horny-grey, as was the animal, if my memory does not deceive me. My sudden

departure from the Cape necessitated the packing of my shell-collection before I had time to record the capture of the living mollusk; and my cabinets remaining unopened till a few weeks back, I thought no more of my discovery. Lately, however, I have become aware of a point in the economy of *Cœlixaxis layardi* that may be of interest to conchologists; and I therefore communicate this note. In picking out some specimens for exchange with a gentleman in Sydney, I was surprised to find a minute specimen fall from one I held in my hand. On tapping it gently, eight or ten more fell; and on examining others, I obtained several more. It is thus clear that this curious shell (which resembles a small *Megaspira ruschenbergiana*) is a viviparous species. The young shells show all the beautiful striae of the parent; and the young animal, showing through the pellucid shell, is of a reddish-buff colour.

Noumea, New Caledonia,
May 20, 1881.

7. Notes on the Genus *Chilina*, with a List of the known Species. By EDGAR A. SMITH.

[Received August 22, 1881.]

The object of the present paper is specially to point out several errors which appear in a monograph by Sowerby in the 'Conchologia Iconica,' written in 1874, and to contradict the statement that many of the figures are taken from specimens in the British Museum. This is most important, as hereafter it might be supposed that the shells in question had been lost or in some way removed from the Museum collection. The figures in the monograph referred to are but copies in many instances of those which appeared thirty years ago in the 'Conchological Illustrations' by the same author. The figures on plate i. which are taken from the old monograph are the following:—fig. 1 *a* (*C. fluviatilis*); fig. 2 *b* (*C. fuminea*); figs. 3 *a*, 3 *b* (*C. major*); fig. 4 *b* (*C. dombeyana*); and figs. 5 *a*, 5 *b* (*C. robustior*).

On plate ii. the following are copies:—fig. 6 *c* (*C. ovalis*); figs. 7 *a*, 7 *b* (*C. fluctuosa*); fig. 8 *a* (*C. ampullacea*); and figs. 9 *a*, 9 *b* (*C. gibbosa*).

On plate iii., fig. 10 (*C. puelcha*), fig. 12 *a*, 12 *b* probably (*C. tehuelcha*), fig. 14 (*C. tenuis*), and fig. 17 (*C. parchappii*), are likewise copies.

In each instance, with the exception of fig. 14 (*C. tenuis*), Mr. Sowerby states that the figures are from specimens in the British Museum. This, I am bound to observe, is totally incorrect. Not in a single case is such the fact; for neither the collection of Mr. Cuming nor that of the Museum contain any shells answering to these drawings. The only figures representing shells actually in the Museum are figs. 6 *a*, 6 *b* (*C. acuminata*), fig. 2 *c* on plate iii. (*C. fuminea*, var.), fig. 11 (*C. patagonica*), fig. 13 (*C. elegans*), fig. 15 (*C. fasciata*), and fig. 16 (*C. subcylindrica*). Unfortunately I am